

Proclamation

DRAFT

WHEREAS, autism affects all persons regardless of race, religion, socio-economic status or geography;

WHEREAS, the incidence of autism in the United States is 1 in 150 and 1 in 94 boys, with rates appearing to have increased similarly around the globe;

WHEREAS, a child is diagnosed with autism every 20 minutes;

WHEREAS, based on data collected from North America, Western Europe and Japan it is conservatively estimated that 35 million people worldwide have autism;

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2007 the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 62/139 World Autism Awareness Day as United Nation Awareness Day to be observed every year starting in 2008 to raise global awareness of autism;

WHEREAS, the aims for World Awareness Day are to inform the general public about the global crisis of autism, stress the importance of early diagnosis and early intervention, and to celebrate the unique talents and qualities of individuals with autism;

WHEREAS, autism is a lifelong condition in which the bulk of costs calls in adulthood, creating an enormous economic impact;

WHEREAS, the constant development challenges of autism threaten to undermine the achievement of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals and other intentionally agreed goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Gilbert, Arizona, implements the ideals of

"WORLD AUTISM DAY"

on April 8, 2012 in perpetuity until a cure for autism is found.

In witness thereof, I hereby set my hand and affix the Official Seal of the Mayor, Town of Gilbert, Arizona, this 19th day of April 2012.

John W. Lewis, Mayor